

KOLLENYI,

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Chief of Station, Parisienne

11 December 1950

Chief, Foreign Division, E

Attn: Pullach

Operational

Hungarian Refugee Exploitation, Austria

REFERENCE-- MASA-024 (not sent to Pullach)

1. The following information has been extracted from a lengthy analysis (MASA-024) of the refugee situation in Austria and of the operational screening, interrogation, or other exploitation of the Hungarian and Czech refugees which is conducted by various interested groups:

a. "The principal Hungarian recruiting team of ZIFFER is composed of Gyorgy KOLLENYI and Lajos VISTREY, who work for the Herbert BONHAR (xALLIER) - Salzburg branch. This recruiting unit operates in Salzburg and has placed Istvan KALMUS and Ferenc PANTAS in the MIS Screening Center at the Hotel Europa. The two men live in the building and function unofficially as janitors or building superintendents. They are there by virtue of an old working agreement with the Public Safety Office in Salzburg and are tolerated by SIC and IB. These men point out refugees with information or operational potential to VISTREY, who debriefs them and in some cases makes recruitment. Examples of recruitment are Josef HORNYI, involved in the evacuation of the [redacted] family (former USIS), Vince TECIAS, Josef POCYAN and Josef VIZZELICS. The main feature of these recruitments is that the individuals are black market and professional emigre types. They are recruited as couriers rather than agents and when sent into Hungary, do not contact intelligence sources. They merely provide operational information on travel, documentation and local conditions, which is used by KOLLENYI and VISTREY to give color and authenticity to reports resulting from the debriefing of refugees. The persons debriefed are put up temporarily in hotels for a short time and given a bonus in money. Although very few of the refugees approached by the ZIFFER team (or by other groups) are used operationally, the initial support given by the KOLLENYI (or other) group tends to create a loyalty situation which makes these refugee ineligible for recruitment by our organization. The courting and recruitment done by KOLLENYI is of direct benefit to the Andreas FAKO operation, since FAKO gets the 'take' via Colonel Gyorgy KOLLENYI, Miklos KAPOBAY and Lajos PANTAS."

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b. "Caritas, Welfare Organization of the Catholic Church operates a debriefing center for Hungarian refugees under the immediate sponsorship of the Hungarian Catholic Action. The debriefing is done by Dr. Elek HOMVATH, employee of Caritas in Salzburg. HOMVATH definitely has KGB connections and is probably tied in with the ZAKO group."

c. "The various approaches to refugees (by KPKH, by French Guard communists and the French Foreign Legion, by Caritas, and by the ZAKO group) result primarily in a duplication of interrogation information. Information from the refugee is likely to show up in the following places: KIS basic interrogation sheets; CIC reports (frequently both in Vienna and in Salzburg); ZAKO reports (through Heinz HOFFMANN in Graz some reports from KOLBEYI reach the Italian IP and CIC); KIS (some KIS reports also reach KIS in Vienna and Catholic Church information circles via Thomas KUKELA); ZAKO (his reports not only are peddled to many independent customers, but find their way back into CIC channels). The result is multiple false confirmation and the totally unnecessary expenditure of government money. The information has reflected chiefly the Hungarian picture. However, the situation with Czech, Slovak, Romanian and Yugoslav refugees is almost identical."

d. KIS-A-024 contains no indication of how the information on the operational procedures, report padding and other activity of VISITAY and ZOLDSYIL was obtained or any further information on the manner in which agent couriers are dispatched by them into Hungary.